

Appl. No. 10/671,144
Second Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-274, the status of which is as follows:

(a) Claims 1-118 were canceled in a previously-filed preliminary amendment. The Applicant may prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

(b) Claims 119-166 have been currently canceled. The Applicant may prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

(c) Claims 167-274 are new.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 167-274 are new. All of these claims generally relate to driving an implanted electrode to apply an electrical signal to a pelvic muscle. This technique is supported throughout the specification, including near the beginning of the Summary of the Invention: "The electrode or electrodes are preferably implanted in the pelvic region of a patient so as to contact the one or more of the muscles or nerves that are used in regulating urine flow from the bladder" (p. 3, lines 14-16).

The following table sets forth more specific support for each of the new claims. It is noted that although many of the claims find support in multiple places in the specification, only a single representative excerpt has been provided for each claim.

Claims	Excerpt from specification
167, 168, 217, 218, 234, 235, 243, 244, 264, 265, 271, and 272 ("providing for the waveform a range of pulse width durations that includes 2 ms"; "set the range of pulse width durations to be selectable from 0.1 ms to 2 ms")	"In a preferred embodiment, the waveform comprises a bipolar square wave having the following characteristics: . . . Pulse width 0.1-2.0 ms, variable in increments of 0.1 ms. . ." (p. 22, lines 1-6).
169, 184, 206, 237, 245, 250, 263, and 274 ("implanted in the pelvic muscle")	"Preferably, the electrode is implanted in the pelvic muscle of the patient" (p. 5, line 32).

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170, 185, 207, 224, and 238 ("pelvic floor muscle")	"Preferably, the electrodes are implanted so as to stimulate muscles of the pelvic floor" (p. 4, line 7).
171, 172, 173, 186, 187, 188, 194, 195, 196, 208, 209, 210, 225, 226, 227, 239, 240, 241, 254, 255, and 256 ("levator ani muscle"; "urethral sphincter muscle"; "pelvic muscle adjacent to a urethral sphincter muscle")	"Most preferably, the pelvic muscle includes the levator ani muscle or the urethral sphincter muscle, or, alternatively, the pelvic muscle is adjacent to the urethral sphincter muscle" (p. 5, line 33 – p. 6, line 2).
174, 175, 211, 212, 228, and 229 ("a single unipolar electrode"; "a pair of bipolar electrodes")	"In a preferred embodiment, the electrode includes a single unipolar electrode or a pair of bipolar electrodes" (p. 6, lines 3-4).
176, 189, 197, 213, 230, and 242 ("a flexible intra-muscular electrode").	"Alternatively or additionally, the electrode includes a flexible intra-muscular electrode" (p. 6, lines 4-5).
177, 198, 214, and 231 ("the control unit is adapted to be implanted in a body of the patient")	"Preferably, the control unit is implanted in the body of the patient. . ." (p. 6, line 26).
178, 183, 215, 232, and 249 ("biphasic")	"For example, the waveform may be uniphasic or biphasic. . ." (p. 21, line 31).
179, 190, 199, 216, 233, 236, and 273 ("at least one elongated electrode structure, adapted to be implanted in general alignment with a urethra of the patient")	Fig. 2A, see position of electrode 27 and lead 24. For the purpose of the claims, the term "electrode structure" refers to an electrode and a conductor (e.g., a lead) that carries current to the electrode.
180, 191, 200, 219, 246, 251, 257, and 266 ("to treat urinary incontinence of the patient")	"In preferred embodiments of the present invention, a device for treatment of urinary incontinence comprises a control unit, one or

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	more electrodes coupled to the control unit, and one or more optional sensors, also coupled to the control unit" (p. 3, lines 11-13).
181, 182, 192, 193, 201, 202, 220, 221, 223, 247, 248, 252, 253, 258, 259, 267, 268, and 270 ("treat the urinary urge incontinence"; "treat the stress incontinence")	"Preferably, the incontinence includes urge incontinence. Alternatively or additionally, the incontinence includes stress incontinence" (p. 7, lines 31-32).
203, 204, 205, 260, 261, and 262 ("terminate application of the waveform after a predetermined period of time"; "the predetermined period of time is about 5 seconds"; "reapply the waveform after termination of the application of the waveform")	"Preferably, the waveform is terminated and switch 46 is closed after a predetermined period of time, typically about 5 sec, has passed. If possible incontinence is again detected at this point, the waveform is re-applied" (p. 21, lines 25-28).
222, 223, 269, and 270 ("treat a bladder condition caused by damage to nerve pathways from a brain to a bladder"; "bladder condition includes urge incontinence")	"Urge incontinence may be caused by damage to nerve pathways from the brain to the bladder or by psychosomatic factors, leading to involuntary bladder contraction" (p. 1, lines 10-12).

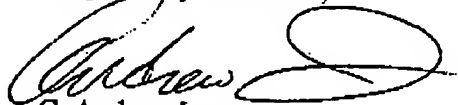
The Applicant submits that all of the claims in the present patent application are in condition for allowance.

Authorization is given to charge the fees for extra claims and any other fees due, to deposit account no: 50-0624.

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Notice of allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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